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Scottsdale Arts believes in presenting programs that engage audiences from diverse backgrounds and promote acceptance, inclusion, and dialogue for all local communities, including our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) families and friends.

We acknowledge that our programming may include new experiences for our audiences. Scottsdale Arts recognizes that some people might be uncomfortable with these programs and make their opinions known. With inclusion and acceptance in mind, we stand firmly against prejudiced attitudes and will not support discrimination in any manner. Rather, we seek to create dialogue and understanding through our educational and artistic programming as we confront stereotypes based on misinformation.

Scottsdale Arts always takes the safety of children seriously. We apply our policies and procedures professionally and equitably and will not deviate from them because certain performances are viewed by some as controversial. Furthermore, we will not allow these professional procedures to be influenced by fearful, prejudiced, or discriminatory attitudes toward LGBTQIA people or programming that speaks to sexual orientation, gender identity, queer families, or gender nonconforming children topics.

Our practices involve considerations to ensure quality programs and a clear understanding of contract performers' services. In regard to concerns about sexual predators at our events, audiences are in public environments and safety protocols are utilized. Scottsdale Arts conducts background checks on all employees, and there is always at least one member of Scottsdale Arts staff present at any of our events. No performer is ever alone with children at any Scottsdale Arts program. Additionally, officers from our Protection Services security division are always on duty during our events.

We do not conduct background checks on any of our performers, and we will not change this procedure because of feedback about certain events or performers. How performers identify or dress is not a reason to single out performers for background checks. We would view that as unfair and discriminatory. It would also be wrong to assume guilt by association based on an incident with a similar type of performance.

Statement written in conjunction with the City of Scottsdale's Office of Diversity and Inclusion